

Appl. No. 10/730,042
Amendment Dated January 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2005

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 7, 29, and 32 have been amended. Claims 34-68 have been canceled without prejudice to filing a divisional application, pursuant to a requirement for restriction and subsequent election by original presentation levied on 11/16/2005.

Claim 32 is amended to correct a minor typographical error. The claim is now dependent on claim 31 which is not subject to the restriction requirement.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the outstanding Office Action claims 7-16 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner's comments and suggestions as set forth in paragraph 8 of the Office Action have been incorporated into claims 7 and 29. All other rejected claims are dependent on these claims. These amendments are merely clarifications and have not been submitted as substantive limitations to overcome prior art. The phrase "said strands of" has been changed to "strands of said" in claims 7 and 29.

Provisional Double Patenting

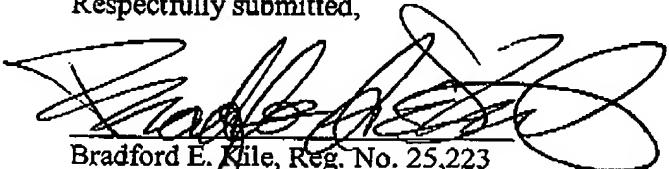
A terminal disclaimer is filed with this response in order to obviate the provisional double patenting rejection of all claims.

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Although a Final Rejection has been issued in this case, this amendment should be entered as it only clarifies issues brought by the Examiner and adds no new issues that will require any further search or consideration.

With entry of the above amendments it is believed that the entire application is now in clear condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would be either necessary or desirable, kindly call the undersigned at the number indicated. If additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to the undersigned's deposit account number 11-0853.

Respectfully submitted,



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